CLAIMS

1.   Method of transmitting data in acknowledged mode between a sending unit and a receiving unit, in which the sending unit sends the receiving unit a sequence of blocks each comprising a header and data to be transmitted, and in which the header of each block comprises an acknowledgement control field activated intermittently by the sending unit so as to request an acknowledgement of blocks on the part of the receiving unit, the method comprising the following steps:

/a/ the acknowledgement control field for some blocks of the sequence is activated in accordance with a predetermined triggering mode; and

/b/ the activation of the acknowledgement control field is repeated for at least one block of the sequence that was sent after a block where the acknowledgement control field has been activated in step /a/.

2.   Method according to Claim 1, in which step /a/ comprises the activation at regular time intervals of the acknowledgement control field for blocks of the sequence.

3.   Method according to Claim 1 or 2, in which step /b/ comprises the repetition of the activation of the acknowledgement control field for N consecutive blocks of the sequence that were sent just after the said block where the acknowledgement control field has been activated in step /a/, N being a number at least equal to 1.

4.   Method according to Claim 3, in which N > 1 and the said N blocks are sent to the receiving unit at regular time intervals.

5.   Method according to Claim 4, in which the duration for which the said N blocks are sent is substantially

shorter than the time intervals between the sendings of blocks where the acknowledgement control field is activated in step /a/.

5 6. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the receiving unit is instructed such that after having received a first block of the sequence having the acknowledgement control field activated, it takes no account of the possible
10 activation of the acknowledgement control field for another block of the sequence that was received in a period of predetermined duration after the said first block.

15 7. Method according to each one of Claims 3 and 6, in which the said predetermined duration corresponds substantially to N times a time interval separating the sendings of two consecutive blocks of the sequence.

20 8. Method according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which the receiving unit is instructed such that after having returned acknowledgement information in response to the receipt of a first block of the sequence having the acknowledgement control field activated, it
25 prohibits the dispatching of acknowledgement information in a period of predetermined duration after the said first block of the sequence.

9. Method according to each one of Claims 3 and 8, in
30 which the said predetermined duration corresponds substantially to N times a time interval separating the sendings of two consecutive blocks of the sequence.

10. Unit for transmitting data in acknowledged mode,
35 comprising means (45) for producing at least one sequence of blocks each comprising data to be transmitted and a header including an acknowledgement control field, means (42) for sending the blocks of the sequence to a receiving unit, and means (41) of

intermittent activation of the acknowledgement control field in the header of the blocks of the sequence so as to request an acknowledgement of blocks on the part of the receiving unit, in which the means of intermittent

5   activation comprise first means (44, 48) for activating the acknowledgement control field for some blocks of the sequence in accordance with a predetermined triggering mode, and second means (43, 48) for repeating the activation of the acknowledgement control

10 field for at least one block of the sequence that was sent after a block where the acknowledgement control field has been activated by the said first means (44, 48).

15 11. Unit according to Claim 10, in which the said first means (44) are arranged so as to activate at regular time intervals the acknowledgement control field for blocks of the sequence.

20 12. Unit according to Claim 10 or 11, in which the said second means (43) are arranged so as to activate the acknowledgement control field of N consecutive blocks of the sequence that were sent just after the said block where the acknowledgement control field has

25 been activated by the said first means (44), N being a number at least equal to 1.

13. Unit according to Claim 12, in which N > 1 and the said N blocks are sent to the receiving unit at regular

30 time intervals.

14. Unit according to Claim 13, in which the duration for which the said N blocks are sent is substantially shorter than the time intervals between the sendings of

35 blocks where the acknowledgement control field is activated by the said first means (44).

15. Unit according to any one of Claims 10 to 14, furthermore comprising means for instructing the

receiving unit in such a way that after having received a first block of the sequence having the acknowledgement control field activated, the receiving unit takes no account of the possible activation of the acknowledgement control field for another block of the sequence that was received in a period of predetermined duration after the said first block.

16. Unit according to each one of Claims 12 and 15, in which the said predetermined duration corresponds substantially to N times a time interval separating the sendings of two consecutive blocks of the sequence.

17. Unit according to any one of Claims 10 to 14, furthermore comprising means (46) for instructing the receiving unit in such a way that after having returned acknowledgement information in response to the receipt of a first block of the sequence having the acknowledgement control field activated, it prohibits the dispatching of acknowledgement information in a period of predetermined duration after the said first block.

18. Unit according to each one of Claims 12 and 17, in which the said predetermined duration corresponds substantially to N times a time interval separating the sendings of two consecutive blocks of the sequence.